

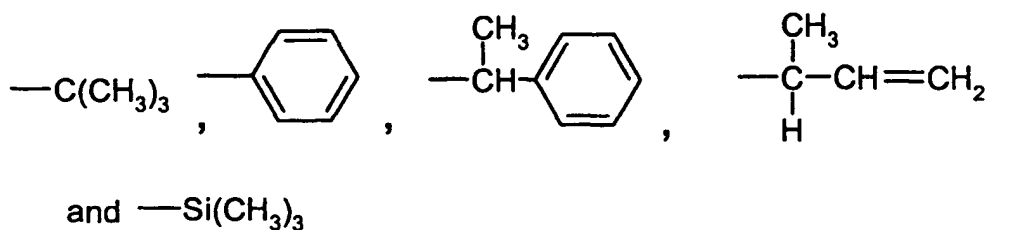
The invention claimed is:

1. A thermally imagable article comprising a substrate on which is coated a positive working heat-sensitive composition comprising a hydroxyl group-containing polymer and a heat-labile moiety which decreases the developer solubility of the composition as compared to the developer solubility of the composition without the heat-labile moiety, wherein the heat-sensitive composition does not comprise an acid generating moiety.
2. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-labile moiety is a moiety having the formula

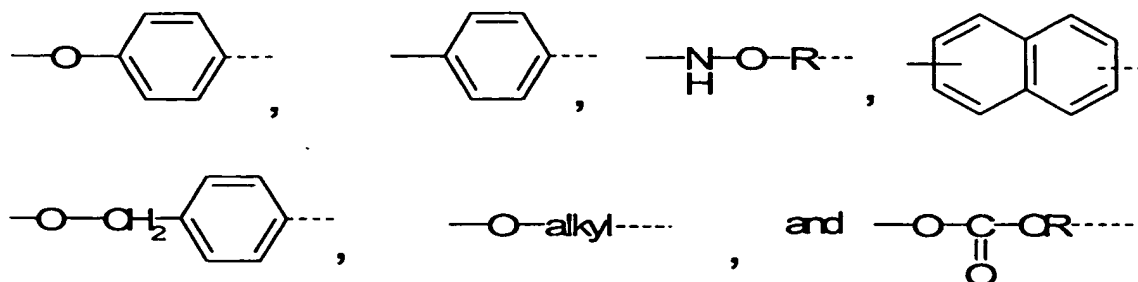


wherein R is an alkyl group, an arylalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkenyl group or a silyl group and X is an alkoxy group, an oxyaryl group, an imino group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group, oxygen or a carbonate group.

3. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 2, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of



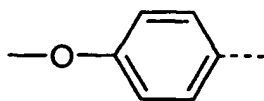
4. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 2, wherein -X--- is



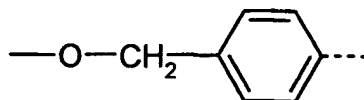
selected from the group consisting of

wherein R is an alkyl group, an arylalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkenyl group or a silyl group.

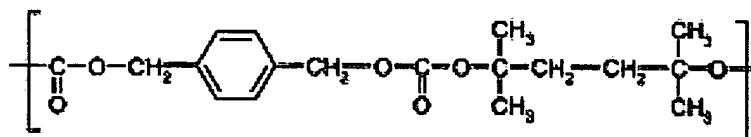
5. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 3, wherein R is $C(CH_3)_3$.
6. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-labile moiety is a pendent group on the hydroxyl group-containing polymer.
7. A thermally imagable article as claimed as claim 6, wherein -X--- is



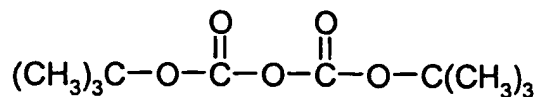
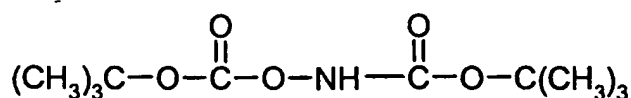
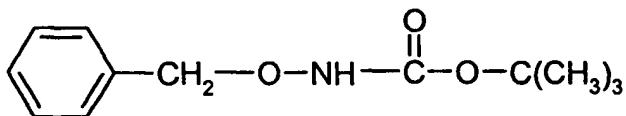
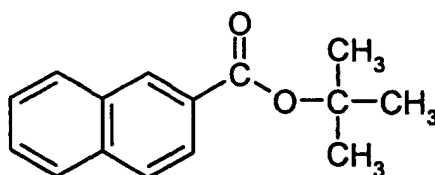
8. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-labile moiety forms part of the backbone of the hydroxyl group-containing polymer.
9. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 8, wherein -X--- is



10. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 9, wherein the hydroxyl group-containing polymer has the formula

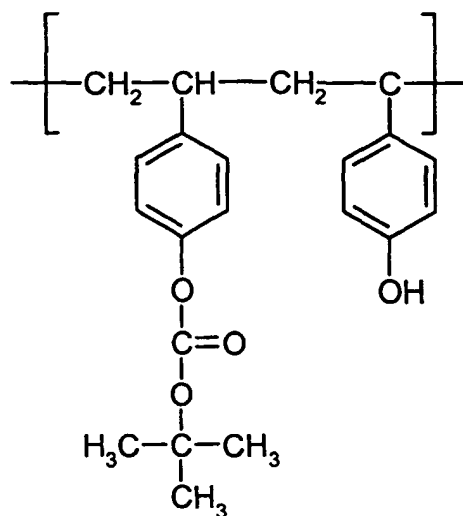


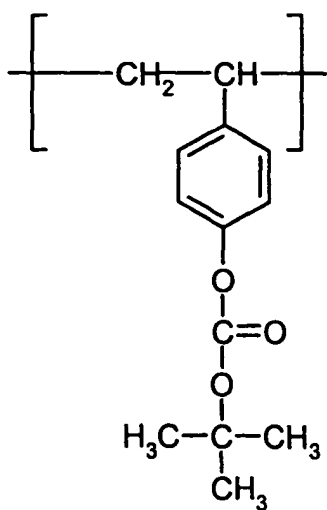
11. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-labile moiety forms part of a separate compound arranged to be admixed with the hydroxyl group-containing polymer.
12. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 11, wherein the compound comprising the heat-labile moiety is selected from the group consisting of:



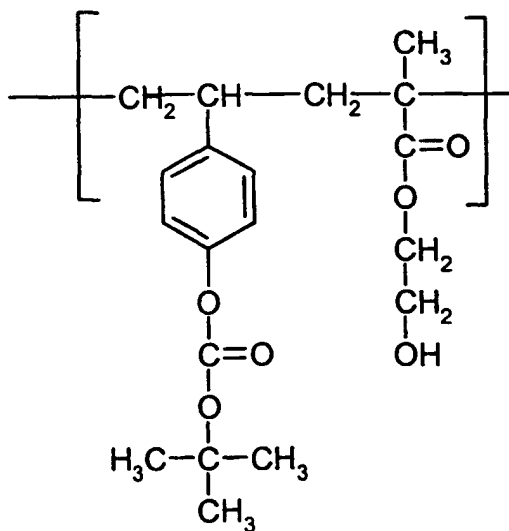
13. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl group-containing polymer is a phenolic resin or co-polymer thereof.

14. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of the hydroxyl group-containing polymer is 70-95% wt of the total weight of the composition.
15. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claims 6 or 8, wherein the amount of hydroxyl group-containing polymer comprising a pendent or backbone heat-labile moiety is 90 to 95% wt of the total weight of the composition.
16. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydroxyl group-containing polymer having pendent heat-labile groups is selected from a polymer comprising units selected from the group consisting of:





or



17. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the positive working composition further comprises a compound capable of absorbing radiation and converting it to heat.
18. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 17, wherein the radiation absorbing compound is an infrared radiation absorbing compound.

19. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 17 wherein the radiation absorbing compound constitutes between 0.5-10% wt of the total weight of the composition.
20. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable article is a precursor to a lithographic printing form, a precursor to a mask, or a precursor to an electronic part.
21. A thermally imagable article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the positive working composition further comprises one or more colorant compounds or moieties.
22. A method of manufacturing a thermally imagable article of claim 1, the method comprising the step of applying the composition to a substrate.
23. A method of manufacturing an imaged article from the imagable article of claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) exposing the coating imagewise; and
 - b) removing the non-exposed regions of the coating, using a developer liquid.
24. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein imaging of selected areas of the coating is effected by the use of infra-red electromagnetic radiation, the coating comprising an infra-red absorbing compound.
25. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the developer liquid is an aqueous alkaline developer.
26. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the method further comprises the steps of (c) contacting the image-wise exposed article with an etchant, in order to selectively etch regions of the substrate of the imagable article in which the coating was removed on development in step (b).
27. An article comprising a substrate bearing an image thereon, produced by the method of claim 23.

28. A positive working, heat-sensitive composition comprising a hydroxyl group-containing polymer and a heat-labile moiety which decreases the developer solubility of the composition as compared to the solubility of the composition without the heat-labile moiety, and wherein the composition further comprises a compound capable of absorbing radiation and converting it to heat.
29. A positive working, heat-sensitive composition as claimed in claim 28, wherein the radiation absorbing compound is a infra-red radiation absorbing compound.
30. A positive-working heat-sensitive composition as claimed in claim 28, wherein the composition further comprises one or more colorant compounds or moieties.
31. A positive-working heat-sensitive composition as claimed in claim 28, wherein the composition does not comprise a compound capable of generating an acid on exposure to heat.
32. A positive-working heat-sensitive composition as claimed in claim 28, wherein the composition does not comprise a compound capable of generating an acid upon exposure to radiation.
33. A thermally imagable article comprising a substrate on which is coated the positive working, heat-sensitive composition of claim 28.
34. A method of manufacturing the imagable article of claim 33, the method comprising the step of coating the positive working, heat-sensitive composition to a substrate.
35. A method of manufacturing the imaged article from the imagable article of claim 33, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) exposing the coating imagewise; and
 - (b) removing the non-exposed regions of the coating using a developer liquid.
36. An imaged article produced by the method of claim 35.